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SUBJECT: ALEX HALEY NEWS CONFERENCE IN PARIS

1. PARIS, JUNE 28--"I AM SURE THAT "ROOTS"(FRENCH TITLE "RACINES") WILL BE AS SUCCESSFUL IN AFRICA AS IN THE UNITED STATES" SAYS ALEX HALEY, AUTHOR OF THE VOLUME THAT SOLD 1.6 MILLION COPIES IN TEN MONTHS IN THE UNITED STATES. "NOT LONG AGO," HE CONTINUED, "I MET IN WASHINGTON WITH 28 AFRICAN AMBASSADORS. THEY HAD ALL READ "ROOTS" AND WERE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT IT. THEY SAID IT HELPED THEM FILL IN GAPS IN THEIR OWN UNDERSTANDING OF THE HISTORY OF SLAVERY".

2. MR HALEY SPOKE AT THE AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER IN PARIS ON THE OCCASION OF THE PUBLICATION OF THE H FRENCH TRANSLATION OF "ROOTS." IT IS BEING DISTRIBUTED IN FRANCOPHONE AFRICA IN THE NOUVEAUX HORIZONS SERIES AND SHOULD BE AVAILABLE IN BOOKSTORES AND AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER LIBRARIES SHORTLY.

3. HARD AT WORK ON A SECOND BOOK, "SEARCH," THE STORY
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OF HOW "ROOTS" CAME TO BE WRITTEN OVER A 12 YEAR PERIOD, ALEX HALEY ALREADY HAS PLANS FOR A THIRD VOLUME. "FOR THIS BOOK", HE SAID, "I WILL BUILD A HOME IN THE GAMBIA AND USE IT AS A BASE. THE BOOK WILL BE SET IN AFRICA AND IT WILL BE ABOUT AFRICA. THAT'S ALL I KNOW RIGHT NOW. IT MIGHT BE A NOVEL OR A FACTUAL BOOK, BUT IT WILL BE AFRICAN IN CONTENT."

4. THE FRENCH TRANSLATION IS THE FIRST OF 23 FOREIGN LANGUAGE EDITIONS ALREADY IN PROGRESS. ASKED WHY HIS QUEST FOR HIS OWN FAMILY'S HISTORY HAD BECOME A TOPIC OF WORLDWIDE INTEREST, MR. HALEY SAID IT WAS BECAUSE EVERYONE--ONCE HE BEGINS TO THINK ABOUT IT--WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT HIS ANCESTORS AND WHERE HE CAME FROM. IN THE UNITED STATES, IT IS MORE DIFFICULT BECAUSE, THE INDIANS ASIDE, WE ALL CAME FROM ACROSS THE OCEAN, AND THAT COMPLICATES RESEARCH, HE ADDED.

5. A JOURNALIST ASKED MR. HALEY WHETHER HE WOULD KEEP THAT NAME, OR ADOPT THE KINTE FAMILY NAME WHICH HE HAD TRACED TWO CENTURIES BACK TO THE VILLAGE OF JUFFREY IN THE GAMBIA. "I AM KEEPING THE NAME ALEX HALEY," HE SAID, BECAUSE IT IS THE NAME GIVEN ME BY MY MOTHER AND FATHER AND BY MY GRANDPARENTS, ALL OF WHOM I REVERE. TO CHANGE THE NAME THEY GAVE ME WOULD BE TO DISHONOR THEM. BUT THE NAME KINTE IS ALSO DEAR TO ME NOW, AND I AM HONORING IT IN THE FOLLOWING WAY. I HAVE SET UP AN ORGANIZATION, THE KINTE CORPORATION, WHICH WILL UNDERTAKE USEFUL PROJECTS IN AFRICA." AMONG THE PLANNED KINTE PROJECTS, ALL TO BE FINANCED PERSONALLY BY MR. HALEY, ARE EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGES OF AFRICANS AND BLACK AMERICANS AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A VOCATIONAL TRAINING

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SCHOOL IN AFRICA, USING BLACK AMERICAN INSTRUCTORS. "THIS IS WHAT MANY AFRICANS TELL ME IS SORELY NEEDED," HE SAID. WHEN WORD OF THE PLANNED PROGRAM LEAKED, APPLICATIONS BEGAN POURING INTO MR. HALEY'S OFFICE BY THE THOUSANDS, BUT HE SAID IT IS STILL TOO EARLY TO MAKE SELECTIONS. " I AM DOING THIS ALONE," HE NOTED, "NOT AS PART OF A BIG FOUNDATION."

6. WHILE IN PARIS, MR. HALEY RECORDED A DISCUSSION WITH PRESIDENT LEOPOLD SEDAR SENGHOR OF SENEGAL, WHICH WILL BE BROADCAST BY FRENCH TELEVISION IN JULY.

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